(4) Contract labour/Contract appointments

(i) The Council noted that the Draft Bill to amend Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 would be finalised by the Union Ministry of Labour in consultation with the Ministry of Law & Justice for taking further necessary action.

(ii) An Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee would be established for the present to clear expeditiously the amendments to be proposed by the State Governments in various labour laws.

(5) Implementation Report

The Inter-State Council took note that out of 247 recommendations of Sarkaria Commission, it had taken a decision on 230 recommendations upto the seventh meeting. Of these, 170 had been implemented, 7 were at various stages of implementation and 53 had not been found acceptable by the Council and the Administrative Ministries/Departments.

(6) Good Governance

A Sub-committee of the Council would be appointed to further deliberate on the subject of Good Governance and come out with a blue print on the subject to be discussed in the next meeting of the Council.

(d) The Inter-State Council is a recommendatory body. The Government of India has accepted the recommendation of the Inter-State Council that a cautious approach should be adopted by the Union Government before giving directions under Articles 256 and 257 and application of Article 365 of the Constitution. The Inter-State Council Secretariat has sent all the other recommendations to the concerned Ministries/Departments for follow up action. This is monitored by the Inter-State Council Secretariat on a continuous basis.

Task force on power sector investments and reforms

*37. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether in a bid to attract investments in the power sector and turn the enabling provisions of the new Electricity Act into investment opportunities, the Government has decided to constitute a Task Force on power sector investments and reforms;

(b) if so, what were the main points of reference made to this Task Force; and

(c) if so, to what extent the Task Force has been able to boost the investments and reforms in the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (c) With the objective of catalyzing fresh investment in the power sector and ensuring the implementation of the reforms and the Electricity Act, 2003, a Task Force on "Power Sector Investments and Reforms" has been constituted on 19th August, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Shri N.K. Singh, Member (Energy), Planning Commission. The terms of reference of the Task Force are as follows :

(i) To analyze the existing investment climate in the power sector and suggest measures for promoting and facilitating private investments, both domestic and foreign, in all segments of the power industry;

(ii) To suggest enabling fiscal regime for securing such investments;

(iii) To consider the ways for augmenting resources for meeting the investment needs of the sector with the objective of providing "Power for All" by 2012;

(iv) To suggest measures for the speedy implementation of APDRP, PMGY, Minimum Needs Programme (MNP), Accelerated RE Programme and AG and SP;

(v) To suggest roadmaps for effective functioning of State Electricity Utilities, including reduction in the cost of delivered power, in the context of Electricity Act, 2003;

(vi) To recommend Electricity Tariff Policy; and

(vii) To evolve and recommend National Electricity Policy.

The Task Force has met 13 times and still is in the process of deliberation on various issues.

Crimes against women and children

*38. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :